United Nations ST/IC/2003/37

Secretariat

12 June 2003

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: Officer-in-Charge, Office of Central Support Services

Subject: **First day of issue — 20 June 2003: International Year of Freshwater stamps and souvenir card**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Friday, 20 June 2003, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six commemorative stamps on the theme "International Year of Freshwater". The General Assembly resolution establishing the Year encourages Governments, the United Nations system and all other organizations to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of sustainable freshwater use, management and protection.

2. The stamps, in denominations of 23¢, 37¢, F.s. 0,70, F.s. 1,30, € 0,55 and € 0,75, were designed by Rick Garcia (United States of America). Each sheet of 20 stamps will accommodate 10 se-tenant horizontal pairs.

(United States equivalents: F.s. 0,70: 54¢; F.s. 1,30: $1.00; € 0,55: 65¢; and € 0,75: 88¢, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 30 June 2003.

03-39524 (E) 130603

Souvenir card

3. A souvenir card on the theme "International Year of Freshwater" will also be issued on 20 June 2003. The card, which was also designed by Mr. Garcia, depicts the new stamps and carries a statement by the Secretary-General. The souvenir card will be available in mint condition as well as three cancelled varieties. Each cancelled card will be affixed with the stamps from the respective UNPA office in either New York, Geneva or Vienna and cancelled appropriately.

Special joint cover UNPA-Swiss PTT

4. To celebrate the International Year of Freshwater 2003, UNPA, Geneva and the Swiss PTT will issue a special joint cover on 20 June 2003. A se-tenant pair of the UNPA International Year of Freshwater stamp in Swiss francs and a stamp issued by the Swiss PTT are affixed to the cover and cancelled with a special cancellation created for this occasion. The envelope, in a limited edition of 20,000, will be numbered from 1 to 20,000.

General information

5. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets **only**. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Friday, 20 June, at the following locations:

(a) UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) Counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

6. First day of issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

7. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.